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9 March 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Poland: [Party First Secretary Gomulka faces the strongest and most direct challenge to his authority since his return to power in 1956.]

[An anonymous pamphlet attacking certain of Gomulka's policies and "Jewish elements in the party"--apparently prepared by a hard-line faction--has been circulating on all levels of the party since early January.]

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[In it Gomulka is violently criticized for unorthodox political and economic theories which have led to "rightist deviation" and the "rebirth of a new bourgeois class," composed of a relatively affluent private peasantry and upper-echelon party leaders.]

[The tract is especially designed to appeal to urban factory and white-collar workers, who constitute the bulk of the party membership and whose standard of living has dropped as a result of Poland's economic slowdown. Its goal is apparently to bring pressures on Gomulka to change his unorthodox policies rather than to unseat him--no one in the party can think of an acceptable replacement.]

[The pamphlet's circulation was timed to sway party opinions prior to the 15th central committee plenum, which reportedly is scheduled for mid-March to make final preparations for the party congress in June. There have been rumors since January that the oft-postponed congress would be put off again, possibly as late as November, because of factional problems, and because Gomulka wanted time to assess the effects of his economic retrenchment program. There is already grumbling within the party that Gomulka is spending too little time on economic problems.]

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Dominican Republic: [A widespread belief among opposition parties that the present government will never allow them to compete without restriction in future elections is encouraging talk of ousting or at least drastically altering the provisional regime.]

[Leaders of exiled former President Joaquin Balaguer's Reformist Party (PR) and ex-President Juan Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) are most frequently mentioned as the nucleus of opposition forces hoping to oust the current regime in favor of a "transitional government." However, their claims of pro-Balaguer support in the armed forces--the key element in any hopes for success--are in conflict with repeated pledges of loyalty to the triumvirate by military leaders in recent days. Moreover, while overly optimistic estimates of success could lead to an early move, there is considerable question whether the two groups could agree on a formula for action in the immediate future.]

[Still a big question mark in any potential anti-government move is Luis Amiama, a would-be authoritarian and head of the growing Liberal Evolutionist Party (PLE). Amiama is saying that his only demand is for the removal of members of the National Civic Union and Dominican Revolutionary Vanguard from the cabinet in order to end the partisan use of government jobs and funds and to ensure fair elections.]

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NOTES

Poland--Sino-Soviet Dispute: A Polish Foreign Ministry official told a US Embassy officer on 5 March that neither the USSR nor East Germany favored Rumanian Premier Maurer's current visit to Peiping. He claimed that the Poles, however, maintain that the Rumanians have a right to take individual initiatives in both ideological and economic affairs. The Poles clearly are caught between a fear of fragmentation of the Socialist camp over the issue of the Sino-Soviet dispute and a desire to preserve some degree of national freedom of action.

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Iran: The resignation on 7 March of Prime Minister Asadollah Alam and his replacement by Hasan Ali Mansur indicate no basic changes in Iran's foreign and domestic policy. The 40-year-old Mansur, leader of the New Iran Party and regarded as pro-American, has appointed a cabinet of younger men apparently dedicated to the Shah's administrative and economic reform program. The selection of which has attracted wide support in parliament, may offset some of the popular disillusionment with the Shah's faltering reform program.

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France: Widespread strikes in the nationalized enterprises are likely in the next few weeks, according to the US Embassy in Paris. Basic issues are growing dissatisfaction with the government's price stabilization program and its arbitrary handling of union wage demands. The coming strike action poses no threat to the government, although it may bring on some ministerial changes and could detract from De Gaulle's current pitch at home and abroad that France has found the way to international independence and national economic strength.

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DAILY BRIEF

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